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CELEBRATE WITH MANDY GONZALEZ

The 'Hamilton' singer performs at Wawa Welcome America. 17

Edgar Wright keeps it real. 13

6 Eagles let go a bit too soon. 22

GOTTA HAVA WAWA!

It's the 25th annual Wawa Hoagie Day, and Metro staffers dish on their faves. 16

PHOTO PROVIDED BY WAWA

BUSH OFFICIAL BLASTS TRUMP OVER RUSSIA

1 A former U.S. diplomat who served under Republican President George W. Bush criticized the Trump administration for failing to do more to investigate allegations that Russia sought to meddle in the 2016 U.S. election. "Russia's going to do this again," Nicholas Burns, who was undersecretary of state from 2005 to 2008, testified to the Senate Intelligence Committee. "Russia's our most dangerous

adversary in the world today, and if he continues to refuse to act, it's a dereliction of the basic duty to defend the country," Burns said. Burns, now a professor at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, was one of four witnesses at an intelligence committee hearing about Russian efforts to influence elections in Europe.

US UNVEILS ENHANCED AIRLINE SECURITY PLAN

2 U.S. Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly on Wednesday unveiled enhanced security measures for foreign flights arriving in the United States in what officials said was a move to prevent an expansion in-cabin ban on laptops and other large electronic devices. "Inaction is not an option," Kelly said, saying he believes airlines will comply with the new screening. But he said the measures are not the last step to tighten security. U.S. officials are requiring enhanced screening of personal electronic devices, passengers and explosive detection for the roughly 2,000 commercial flights arriving daily in the United States from 280 airports in 105 countries. The decision not to impose new restrictions on laptops is a boost to U.S. airlines.

BLUE APRON SLASHES IPO PRICE AS AMAZON LOOMS

3 Blue Apron Holdings Inc. sharply lowered the expected price range for its initial public offering, as Amazon.com's $13.7 billion deal to buy Whole Foods Market Inc. weighed on prospects for the meal-kit industry. The company lowered the IPO price range to $10 to $11 per share from its previous estimate of $15 to $17 per share after potential investors expressed concerns about Amazon's Whole Foods deal as well as Blue Apron's marketing costs and lack of profitability, people familiar with the matter said. Amazon already has a small meal-kit business, delivering ingredients and recipes to customers in a handful of U.S. cities, and the Whole Foods deal announced in mid-June would hand the e-commerce company a ready-made distribution system for food delivery in the form of brick-and-mortar grocery stores.

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

ACTIVISTS PROTEST HEALTHCARE PLAN

4 A protester is arrested by Capitol Police officers outside the office of Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) while lobbying against the Senate GOP healthcare bill, on Capitol Hill on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

WARNING MAY HAVE AVERTED SYRIAN ATTACK

5 Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said on Wednesday that the Syrian government of President Bashar al-Assad appeared so far to have heeded a warning this week from Washington not to carry out a chemical weapons attack. Russia, the Syrian government's main backer in the country's civil war, warned that it would respond with dignity and proportionately if the United States took pre-emptive measures against Syrian forces to stop what the White House says could be a planned chemical attack. The White House said on Monday it appeared the Syrian military was preparing to conduct a chemical weapons attack and said that Assad and his forces would "pay a heavy price" if it did so. The warning was based on intelligence that indicated preparations for such a strike were under way at Syria's Shayrat airfield, U.S. officials said.

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ERIN TIERNAN, WEB REPORTER
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Janice Matthews, left, holds a picture of her son Austin Sternberg. SAM NEWHOUSE

Judge upholds sentence in fatal fentanyl overdose case

Admitted fentanyl dealer who got stiff sentence has request for reconsideration slapped down.

HAYDEN MITMAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

A Philadelphia judge pulled no punches during a sentence reconsideration hearing on Wednesday for a man convicted of selling a dose of fentanyl that killed a 39-year-old man last year.

"If you're selling dope, you assume the responsibility," Judge Rayford Means, of the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas, said during the hearing. "If you're doing these things, you're in the game."

Earlier this year, Means sentenced convicted drug dealer Antonio Moreno, 27, of Kensington, to 16½ to 30 years in prison for selling the fentanyl-laced heroin that took the life of Austin Sternberg.

Sternberg died Jan. 27 of last year, after using what he believed was heroin. Though, according to Sternberg's mother, Janice Matthews, the coroner didn't find heroin in her son's system, and instead found fentanyl and Benedryl.

"My son never had a chance," she said in an interview Wednesday.

During Wednesday's hearing, based on Moreno's appeal for a lesser sentence, his aunt, Olga Moreno, spoke on behalf of her nephew, saying that his mother dropped him on her doorstep at the age of 3 because she had problems with drug addiction.

"She chose the street over him, and I raised him," she told the court.

Moreno's aunt motioned to the back of the room, where Moreno's young children sat with their mother, in an effort to explain that the lengthy sentence would take the convicted drug dealer — who had several prior arrests, including a 2010 case in which he was arrested after a shootout in front of his Kensington home — away from his children.

In that conviction, Moreno was found with 246 bags of crack cocaine and 46 jars of PCP.

"We are losing our time with him, and they lost a son," said Moreno's aunt as she pointed to Sternberg's mother, who was also in court. "It's a no-win situation."

In court, Moreno's defense attorney argued that the deceased Sternberg should have considered the age-old axiom of "buyer beware" before purchasing illegal drugs.

However, Means countered that, even if Moreno

"If you're selling dope, you assume the responsibility."
Judge Rayford Means

didn't know that he was selling fentanyl, he would need to be held accountable for the "unregulated goods" that ended Sternberg's life.

"You assume that risk because it is unregulated," explained Means. "You shouldn't be selling unregulated goods."

After the judge announced his decision not to reconsider Moreno's sentencing, a member of Moreno's family shouted, "What kind of justice is this?" as they were leaving the courtroom.

In response, Means had court officers ensure that Moreno's family and members of Sternberg's family were kept separated as they left the building.

After the verdict, Williams said she was glad the judge upheld his original decision.

"I'm relieved," she said.

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Good Samaritans defend woman during Center City robbery attempt

A group of strangers came to the victim's aid to stop the robbery, but the suspect escaped.

HAYDEN MITMAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Four men stopped an attempted purse snatching on Father's Day when they attacked a man who, police said, was kicking and dragging a woman along the sidewalk while he was trying to steal her purse in Center City.

According to police, the incident occurred at about 10 p.m. on Sunday, June 18, when a 30-year-old woman was walking north on the 200 block of South 16th Street.

At that time, law enforcement officials said a black male — described as being about 50 years old, 6-foot-2 and weighing about 190 pounds — approached from behind and grabbed her purse.

The suspect was stopped mid-robbery but remains at large. PPD

The two struggled over the purse, with the attempted thief kicking the woman and dragging her along the ground by her wrist as he tried to pull her purse out of her hands, police said.

However, according to law enforcement officials, four good Samaritans who saw the struggle came to the woman's aid, causing the wanted individual to flee west on Chancellor at 16th Street. One was a rear passenger on a motorcycle who jumped off to offer aid after the driver pulled over.

Law enforcement officials said that the woman suffered minor scratches on her neck, wrists and knees in the attempted robbery, but nothing was taken.

The Philadelphia police are asking for help from the public to identify the wanted individual who can be seen in the video. Law enforcement officials said he has a thin, muscular build, unshaven gray facial hair and short hair, and he was wearing a white tank top, tan pants, white sneakers and a dark colored hat at the time of the incident.

Anyone who might have information about this individual is asked to call 215-686-TIPS (8477) or text a tip to PPD TIP or 773847.

U-Haul smashes through wall of Northern Liberties brewery

One man is in custody — and will likely be losing his U-Haul deposit — after crashing a rented truck through the wall of the Urban Village Brewery, a restaurant located in the Piazza at Schmidts on Wednesday afternoon.

According to police, the incident happened at about 12:57 p.m. when a 41-year-old male drove a U-Haul truck northbound — which is the wrong way on the one-way street — down Second Street through Northern Liberties.

When the vehicle was in front of the brewery, just before the intersection of Second Street and Germantown Avenue, the truck swerved, driving through the entrance of the business, law enforcement officials said.

According to police, the driver of the truck has been taken into custody on suspicion of DUI, and he has been transported to Hahnemann Hospital after complaining of leg pain. As of 4 p.m., the driver's condition at the hospital was unknown, police said.

A U-Haul truck crashed into the new brew pub at the Piazza in NoLibs. HAYDEN MITMAN

Also, law enforcement officials said that the city's Department of L&I has been contacted to inspect the building, as there was structural damage caused by the crash. HAYDEN MITMAN

Donald Trump and Jeff Bezos have had a rocky relationship. GETTY IMAGES

Trump attacks Amazon for not 'paying internet taxes,' which don't exist

The tweetstorm came after the Washington Post, owned by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, broke a story about the president posting fake magazine covers in his golf clubs.

MICHAEL MARTIN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

The Obama-era rallying cry "break the internet" has become "tax the internet," at least where President Trump is concerned.

On Wednesday, after Washington Post reporter David Fahrenthold broke the story that Trump had posted a fake cover of Time magazine starring himself at 17 of his clubs — leading to Time asking the president to remove the covers — Trump took to Twitter to enact his revenge. He restated his harsh criticisms of the Washington Post and its owner, Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos, whom he has long considered an adversary.

The fake Time cover showed Trump on a March 1, 2009 cover, posing under headlines like "The 'Apprentice' is a television smash!" and "Trump is hitting on all fronts… even TV!" Fahrenthold reported: "There was no March 1, 2009, issue of Time magazine. And there was no issue at all in 2009 that had Trump on the cover."

Trump tweeted: "The #AmazonWashingtonPost, sometimes referred to as the guardian of Amazon not paying internet taxes (which they should) is FAKE NEWS!"

This line of attack was twofold, journalists observed: One, the president tweeted this after literally posting fake news, and second, he referred to internet taxes, which do not exist.

That wasn't the only inaccuracy in those 140 characters: Bezos purchased the Washington Post in 2013, for $250 million, separately from Amazon; the company does not own the Post. What Trump meant by "internet taxes" was unclear: Taxes on internet access are disallowed by the Internet Tax Freedom Act. In the past, Trump has accused Bezos and Amazon of inadequately filling the federal government's tax coffers by waiving tax on customer purchases. That is also not correct: Amazon charges tax in every state that has a sales tax.

The White House did not comment on the president's allegations.

In 2015, Trump accused Amazon of being a "tax shelter." Just over a year later, during one of the presidential debates, he said that avoiding taxes "makes him smart." Also during the presidential campaign, Trump threatened to ban the Post from his news conferences and rallies. Complicating the whipsaw Trump/Bezos relationship, Fortune magazine pointed out that Trump had hosted Bezos at the White House during Tech Week just last week.

In a longstanding break from presidential tradition, Trump continues to refuse to release his own tax returns.

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School bullies are quoting President Trump to harass their classmates

It creates a tricky situation for schools: How do you contend that the American president isn't worthy of emulation?

MICHAEL MARTIN
@MetroPhilly
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The president's words have been used by students to bully others. I-STOCK, PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

It comes with the territory: The most powerful man in the country is exalted as the ultimate role model for the nation's youth. Then came Donald Trump, and his daily cavalcade of racist remarks are serving as a kind of unfolding Fisher-Price My First Bullying Kit for kids. Teachers nationwide are dismayed, unsure of how to discipline bullies who are using the president's own words.

There have been at least 50 incidents, across 26 states, in which elementary-school kids have used the president's own words against classmates to harass them, BuzzFeed News reported. "This is my 21st year in education, and I've never seen a situation like this before," said Brent Emmons, principal of Hood River Middle School in Oregon. "It's a delicate tightrope to walk. It's not my role to tell people how to think about political policies, but it is my role to make sure every kid feels safe at the school."

Some of the reported incidents:

— On a school bus in San Antonio, Texas, a white eighth-grader said to a Filipino classmate, "You are going to be deported."

— In the hallway of a high school in San Mateo County, California, a white student told two biracial girls to "go back home to whatever country you're from."

— In a classroom in Brea, California, a white eighth-grader told a black classmate, "Now that Trump won, you're going to have to go back to Africa, where you belong."

— In Louisville, Kentucky, a third-grade boy chased a Latina girl around the classroom shouting, "Build the wall!"

— In a stadium parking lot in Jacksonville, Florida, after a high school football game, white students chanted at black students from the opposing school: "Donald Trump! Donald Trump! Donald Trump!"

— In York County, Pennsylvania, a group of high school students holding Trump signs marched through the halls; one shouted, "White power."

— In Coppell, Texas, a Latino high school student found on his desk a goodbye card with a note suggesting he would be deported and ending, "Make America Great Again! Adios!"

To arrive at their report, BuzzFeed analyzed every report submitted to the Documenting Hate project, a database of hate crimes and bias incidents begun by ProPublica.

"It's unacceptable and it reflects a wider climate of hate that we're seeing," Antonio Lopez, an assistant school superintendent in Portland, Oregon, told BuzzFeed. In March, he announced a plan to track racist bullying in his district.

Harold Slutsky, DMD ORTHODONTIST

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With US healthcare bill in disarray, Republicans demand revamp

In a big setback to the seven-year Republican quest to undo Democratic former President Barack Obama's signature legislative achievement, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell abandoned plans to get the bill passed this week.

Senate Republican leaders faced calls from critics within the party on Wednesday for substantial changes, rather than mere tinkering, to a major healthcare bill if they are to salvage their effort to repeal major parts of the Obamacare law.

McConnell, with his reputation as a master strategist on the line, put off a vote until after next week's Independence Day recess, after it became apparent he would not muster the 50 votes needed for passage.

Acknowledging demands from fellow Republicans for more input into retooling the legislation, McConnell said on the Senate floor, "Senators will have more opportunities to offer their thoughts as we work toward an agreement."

McConnell met with a procession of Republican senators in his office, including some who have criticized the bill. John Cornyn, the No. 2 Senate Republican, said the party leadership would be talking to every Republican senator who had expressed concerns or was undecided about the bill.

Cornyn told reporters it would be "optimal" to have changes to the legislation worked out by Friday so that a new version could be analyzed by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. The CBO forecast on Monday that the existing bill would lead to some 22 million people losing their healthcare insurance over a decade while cutting the federal deficit by $321 billion over that period.

President Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

The prospect of so many people losing insurance is unpalatable to moderates such as Sen. Susan Collins, a key opponent of the draft legislation. Collins said it would be "very difficult" to reach agreement on the bill by Friday.

With Democrats unified against it and Republicans controlling the Senate by a slim 52-48 margin, McConnell can afford to lose only two Republican senators to secure passage, with Vice President Mike Pence able to cast a tie-breaking vote. At least nine Republican senators — including moderates, hard-line conservatives and others — have expressed opposition to the bill in its current form. REUTERS

Are you suffering from Heavy Menstrual Bleeding due to

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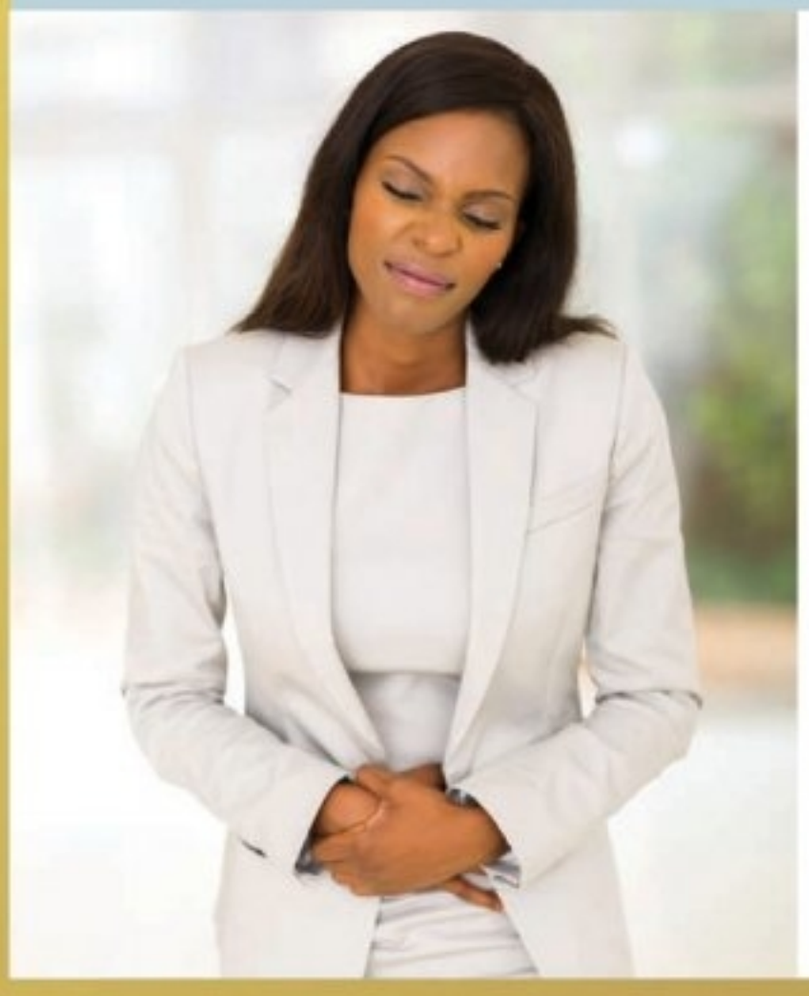

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Venezuela hunts rogue helicopter attackers, Maduro foes suspicious

The Venezuelan government hunted on Wednesday for rogue policemen who attacked key installations by helicopter, but critics of President Nicolas Maduro suspected the raid may have been staged to justify repression.

A police helicopter is seen flying during a protest demanding Venezulan President Nicolas Maduro's resignation and new elections in Caracas. GETTY IMAGES

In extraordinary scenes over Caracas around sunset on Tuesday, a stolen helicopter fired shots at the Interior Ministry and dropped grenades on the Supreme Court, both viewed by Venezuela's opposition as bastions of support for a dictator.

Nobody was injured and the aircraft, identified by the government as an Airbus Bolkow 105, apparently referring to the Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm Bo 105, was gone.

Officials said special forces were seeking Oscar Perez, 36, a police pilot named as the mastermind of the raid by the helicopter that carried a banner saying "Freedom!"

In 2015, Perez co-produced and starred in "Death Suspended," an action film based on real events in which he played the lead role as a government agent rescuing a kidnapped businessman.

There was no sign on Wednesday of Perez, described by officials as a "psychopath," though police sources said the helicopter was dumped in Higuerote, on the Caribbean coast.

The attack exacerbated an already full-blown political crisis in Venezuela after three months of opposition protests demanding general elections and fixes for the sinking economy.

At least 76 people have died in the unrest since April, the latest a 25-year-old man shot in the head near a protest in the Petare slum of Caracas, authorities said on Wednesday.

Hundreds more people have been injured and arrested in what Maduro terms an ongoing coup attempt with U.S. encouragement.

"It's a terrorist attack that is part of an insurrectional offensive by Venezuelan right-wing extremists with the support of foreign governments and powers," said a Venezuelan government communique on the helicopter raid.

The attack fed a conspiracy theory by opposition supporters that it may have been a government setup and overshadowed other drama on Tuesday, including the besieging of opposition legislators by gangs in the National Assembly.

The helicopter raid also coincided with a judicial measure weakening the powers of dissident chief state prosecutor Luisa Ortega, who has emerged as a major challenger to Maduro.

"It seems like a movie," said Julio Borges, leader of the opposition-controlled legislature, of the helicopter raid.

"Some people say it is a setup, some that it is real … Yesterday was full of contradictions … A thousand things are happening, but I summarize it like this: A government is decaying and rotting, while a nation is fighting for dignity." REUTERS

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‘Clever boy’ Obama returns to Indonesia for family vacation

Former president Barack Obama and his family arrive at Borobudur in Magellan, Indonesia, on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

From white water rafting in Bali to visiting temples on Java, former President Barack Obama’s private family holiday is being closely tracked in Indonesia where he spent four years as a child.

Obama was 6 when he moved to Jakarta after his American mother, Ann Dunham, married an Indonesian man following the end of her marriage to Obama’s Kenyan father.

“I feel proud that my friend became a president,” said Sonni Gondokusumo, 56, a former classmate of Obama at the Menteng 01 state elementary school in Jakarta.

Gondokusumo showed a class photograph of himself standing behind a young Obama, who was wearing a school beret.

“He was a clever boy. Whenever a teacher asked him to solve a problem in front of the class, he could do it,” Gondokusumo told Reuters, adding he hoped to meet the former president again.

Obama remains popular in the world’s most populous Muslim nation and his trip has been splashed across the media during an extended public holiday to mark the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. The Rakyat Merdeka newspaper carried a headline “Obama loves Indonesia.”

Obama returned for an official visit as president in 2010 with his wife, Michelle, but this time has brought daughters Malia and Sasha as well.

Indonesians are avid social media users and snaps of the former president walking with his family in rice fields and rafting on Bali’s Ayung River have gone viral.

Obama kicked off the holiday on the island of Bali, where he stayed at the luxurious Four Seasons Resort Bali near the cultural center of Ubud. REUTERS

BRIEFS

Sarah Palin sues New York Times for defamation

Former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin has sued the New York Times for defamation because of an editorial that linked her rhetoric to a 2011 shooting that killed six people and seriously wounded a U.S. congresswoman.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York on Tuesday said the Times deliberately “acted with actual malice” toward Palin and that the editorial was “false and defamatory.” It claims the Times violated its policies and procedures.

Palin, the former Alaska governor was Republican presidential candidate John McCain’s running mate in an unsuccessful 2008 campaign, is seeking in excess of $75,000 for compensatory, special and punitive damages.

On June 14 the Times published an editorial commenting on the mass shooting at a Virginia baseball field that injured four people, including Republican Representative Steve Scalise, saying the attack was probably evidence of how vicious American politics has become.

REUTERS

FBI agent charged with lying about Oregon refuge shooting

An FBI agent has been charged with lying when he told investigators he did not fire his weapon at a protester killed by police during a 2016 standoff at a federal wildlife refuge in Oregon, according to court documents. The agent, Joseph Astarita, was charged with three counts of making false statements and two counts of obstruction of justice in an indictment handed down in U.S. District Court in Oregon on June 20.

According to the court papers, Astarita falsely told investigators he did not open fire at Robert “LaVoy” Finicum during a confrontation between protesters and law enforcement on a snow-covered road near the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge on Jan. 26, 2016.

Astarita, who is a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s hostage rescue team based in Quantico, Virginia, is not accused of killing Finicum or striking him with any bullets.

Finicum, a 54-year-old rancher who acted as a spokesman for the refuge’s lands-rights occupiers, was shot dead by Oregon State Police in an incident caught on videotape taken by a law enforcement aircraft. REUTERS

Muscle pain?

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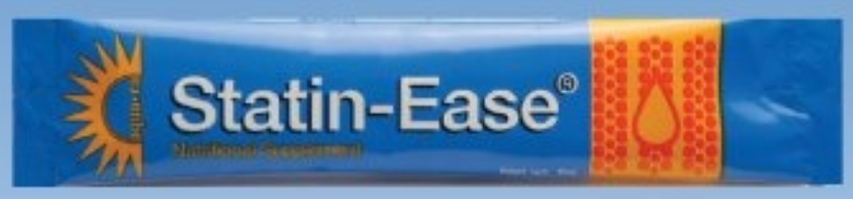

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Let's talk about Rihanna's new BF

Um, has Rihanna had a boyfriend all this time, and has she been hiding him from us? Maybe!

Our lady Rih Rih was spotted making out with a hot guy in a pool in Spain, as you do. Which had everyone wondering — who, exactly, is this man whose hotness comes through even the grainiest of photographs?

Turns out Page Six has the answer: his name is Hassan Jameel, and he's a Saudi businessman with a rich family and a net worth of $1.5 billion. BILLION. Rihanna really is out here being a role model for us all, showing us how to live. Bless her.

"They've been spending a lot of time together away from prying eyes and are really serious," a source said. "They're really enjoying each others' company."

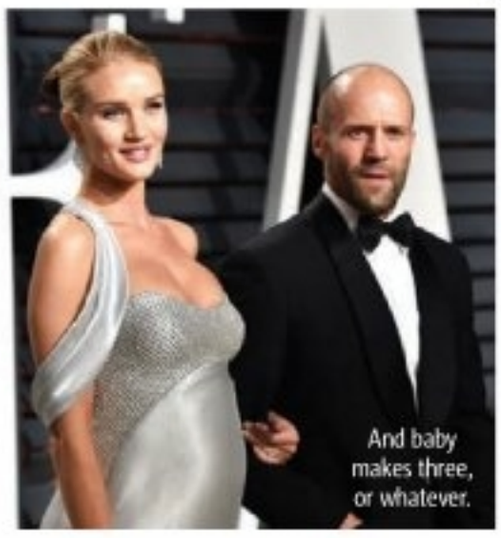
You know what? I feel deep in the crevasse where a heart usually would be that Rihanna leads by example. So let's all get billionaire businessmen boyfriends now. It's this summer's hottest new trend!

Our lady Rih Rih has chosen well. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Rosie Huntington-Whiteley & Jason Statham had a baby

Rosie Huntington-Whiteley and Jason Statham — a very pleasant pair that I always forget are a thing — welcomed a baby boy over the weekend. Hooray for conventionally attractive Brits everywhere!

The 30-year-old model shared the news via Instagram, as you do when you're a celebrity-slash-influencer-type. "Our little man arrived!" she wrote. "Jack Oscar Statham — 8.8 lbs on Saturday June 24th." Awww. So sweet of them to give their kid a normal, regular-ass name.



And baby makes three, or whatever.

The 49-year-old Statham hasn't made any announcements on his Instagram, but I'm thinking that's because he mostly uses the app for brooding black-and-white photographs of himself. It would be off-brand to just plop a baby in the middle of that.

Anyway, congratulations to the couple and bravo again for giving your child the gift of not being named after like, a wild animal or a fruit.

the word

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
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rachael.clemmons@metro.us

Britney Spears is mad you know she lip syncs

Britney Spears — a woman who lip syncs sometimes — is pissed off that you think she just, like, relies on lip syncing.

During a chat on an Israeli TV show, Britney clapped back at the haters that have criticized her for using prerecorded tracks. On how much of her Piece of Me shows are live, she said, "A lot of people think that I don't sing live. I usually, because I'm dancing so much, I do have a little bit of playback, but there's a mixture of my voice and the playback. "It really pisses me off because I'm busting my ass out there and singing at the same time," the 35-year-old said. "Nobody ever really gives me credit for it." OK, but you're still also lip syncing, right?

Nobody is expecting Britney to be dancing her ass off and singing at the same time. I mean, she didn't even do that in her prime, did she? And that's fine! You just keep doing you, babe.

Should you be mad about this Emilia Clarke quote?

Emilia Clarke — "Game of Thrones'" resident Daenerys Targaryen — talked to Rolling Stone ahead of the premiere of the seventh season. And it looks like she's been traveling the rocky road of wokeness and, bless her, she's trying.

The questionable bit comes when she kind of compares sexism and racism. At least, I feel like that's what she's doing? And I'm not sure how to feel about it.

On the undercurrent of sexism in her field, she says, "I feel so naive for saying it, but it's like dealing with racism. You're aware of it, but one day, you go, 'Oh, my God, it's everywhere!' Like you suddenly wake up to it and you go, 'Wait a f—ing second, are you … are you treating me different because I've got a pair of tits?"

I don't know if I should be mad, but I do know if you have to preempt something by claiming naivete, maybe don't say it?

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Edgar Wright keeps it real

The beloved director talked to real getaway drivers before making the action movie 'Baby Driver."

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Edgar Wright directs Ansel Elgort on the set of "Baby Driver," now in theaters. TRISTAR PICTURES

Edgar Wright is speaking from inside a car while we talk "Baby Driver." He's not driving, of course. That wouldn't be safe. Even if he were, he'd be nothing like the hero of his latest movie: an action film about a young getaway driver named Baby (Ansel Elgort) trying to get out of his life of crime. (And being that its from the maker of "Shaun of the Dead" and "Hot Fuzz," the film is also really funny.) But Wright himself isn't much of hot rodder.

"I like driving while listening to music," Wright tells us. "I'm more interested in the ride than the car, if that makes sense."

That's part of the reason why "Baby Driver" is such an unusual car movie: The rides Baby drives usually aren't distinct. You notice the driving, not the make of vehicle.

"In most action films, the hero is driving a vintage muscle car or a fancy quarter-of-a-million-dollar sports car. I remember with the remake of 'Gone in 60 Seconds,' Nicolas Cage's car is so beautiful that it seems like the filmmakers can't bear to put a dent in it for the entire movie," he says. "One of the things I learned interviewing getaway drivers and ex-cons is that with bank heists, they use stolen cars, which are easy to blend into normal traffic. They'd steal something on the day of the heist from a parking structure, something that's not going to be phoned in as missing."

Some of the crazy stories Wright heard from ex-cons wound up in the movie. "I'd ask them, 'Did you ever listen to music on the way to a job?' One of them said, 'I wouldn't listen to anything on the way to the job because I've got enough demons making music in my head.' I was like, 'Oh, boy, write that one down,'" Wright recalls.

Here's one more thing that's never been a part of movies before "Baby Driver": Jon Hamm as a slimy coke-head criminal. Wright actually wrote the part for him, even though his character's far from Don Draper or anyone else he's played — and even though it's a supporting role. But because the character is played by Jon Hamm, you get the sense that when he's not onscreen he's off in his own movie.

"You get the sense of a bigger universe," Wright says. "You don't need to do a Cinematic Universe for this movie, but it's fun to imagine what the characters are doing when they're not onscreen."

Thank you for the music

"Baby Driver" isn't your typical car movie in another way: Baby's shtick is to play a song during each heist, timing his moves down to the beat. Amazingly, most of them have never appeared in a movie before.

"It was about picking songs that don't necessarily have visuals you associate with them," Wright says. "A lot of the songs aren't monotonous; they have these great, distinct sections to them. 'Bellbottoms' [by Jon Spencer Blues Explosion] has a big build then it really kicks off. 'Hocus Pocus' [by Focus] is always starting and stopping."

One movie newbie is "Neat Neat Neat," the full-throttle opening to the debut album by punk legends the Damned. Wright remembers watching a Damned documentary last year in which the lead singer, Dave Vanian, complained about the lack of his band in movies.

"He said, 'People don't remember the Damned, we need to get the Damned in a movie, we need a music supervisor to hear our tracks.' He was having this embittered rant," Wright says. "I was like, 'I'm going to make your Christmas Day, Dave Vanian.'"

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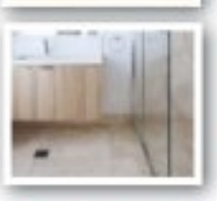

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'She Makes Comics' proves superheroes aren't just for boys

JENNA BUSCH

Geek Girl in Hollywood

Jenna Busch takes on the way pop culture snubs its female fans. For more columns, visit metro.us/jenna-busch as well as her site, Legion of Leia (legionofleia.com)

"Wonder Woman" has helped make it clear that women love superheroes, too.
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

A couple of years ago, I took part in something that I'm very proud of: the documentary "She Makes Comics," which hits VOD and iTunes on July 11. I promise you, this isn't some shameless promotion; I'm just interviewed in the film for a few minutes. I didn't write/produce/direct or do anything other than chat about what this art form means to me.

Here's the info on the film: "'She Makes Comics' traces the fascinating history of women in the comics industry. Despite popular assumptions about the comics world, women have been writing, drawing, and reading comics since the medium's beginnings in the late 19th century. And today, there are scores of women involved in comics and its vibrant fan culture."

Here's the thing about this film: Even knowing what I know about the history of comics and the women in them — even having written comics — I had no idea about the extent of women's history in the genre. I don't think most people, even within the industry, know how much we've been a part of it since the beginning.

There is a reason I say this. A number of years ago, I was lucky enough to be a part of the comics anthology "Womanthology." Everyone involved identifies as a woman, and it shocked the industry. The Kickstarter goal to fund it was $25,000— it ended up at $109,301! Comics greats like Jim Lee, Steve Niles, Cat Staggs, Gail Simone and Neil Gaiman donated rewards for donations. All of a sudden, I was hearing from industry insiders that they were stunned. They had no idea how much people wanted to see this. How could they not, you ask? That's a little of what the film takes on.

It's fascinating learning about the things women have been involved with. It's fascinating hearing what they went through in the early years and how, at one point, there were more female readers of comics than male readers. However, the longer I do what I do, the less surprised I am. It's not that women aren't involved in industries. It's more that no one talks about them.

I'm really proud to be a part of this project, even in my very small way. I want to help get the word out there and let people know about this film. I've told this story before, but here's a reason why: When "Womanthology" came out, I was at San Diego Comic-Con. I was showing a friend the book and my stories in it. A tiny little girl came up to me and pulled on my pant leg. She said, "Are you in this book?" I told her I was. She asked, "Can I hug you?" After I was done choking back tears, her mom told me that she wanted to draw comics and that "she didn't think girls could do that."

If you're a comic book fan, then these women are part of the history of something you love. It's worth learning about more than just the men who created this art.

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Spend your Friday nights at the Philadelphia Museum of Art

Be social and satisfy your craving for culture.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

By Friday night, most of us are pretty exhausted after a long week of work. Rather than go home to Netflix, however, why not spend the evening at the Philadelphia Museum of Art? All summer long, they have young professional events that are more than just cocktails and conversation. You'll be engaging your intellect as well with gallery access and live music until 8:45 p.m. The best part? The evening kicks off early so you can still get a good night's sleep and make the most of Saturday morning.

Here are a few events that caught our eye — and they're all free with museum admission.

Final Fridays: Down the Shore
June 30,
5-8:45 p.m.
The PMA channels beachy vibes for this fun Final Friday event that features minigolf, live music from all-female rock group Louie Louie and more. You can even silkscreen your own tote or T-shirt with the Fabric Workshop just in time for your next beach getaway. Surfs up!

Buyepongo
July 7,
5-8:45 p.m.
Buyepongo means "to cause a ruckus" and is also the name of a Latin band performing at the PMA. Be prepared to dance the night away to their energetic rhythms and tropical Latin grooves.

color as time
July 14,
5-8:45 p.m.
Experimental composer Joshua Stamper leads a group of local musicians from Philly's classical and folk scenes for a night of music that is earthy and poignant.

The PMA has an extensive lineup of Friday night events.
B. KRIST FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA

Birdie Busch
July 21,
5-8:45 p.m.
Philly-based singer-songwriter Birdie Busch performs music from her 11-year career, which officially began in 2006 with the release of her album, "The Way We Try." She has since released four full-length albums.

Final Fridays: Wild
July 28,
5-8:45 p.m.
This evening is all about saving the environment and art. The Secret Sisters, an Americana duo out of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, performs.

Michelle Lordi
Aug. 4,
5-8:45 p.m.
Revel in summertime romance with a performance from jazz vocalist Michelle Lordi, who will be performing love songs spanning three generations.

Roge
Aug. 11,
5-8:45 p.m.
Brazil comes to Philly when the Latin Grammy-nominated act Roge performs at the PMA. The Rio de Janeiro-based musician comes with a full band to bring the Latin heat for an unforgettable night of music.

For the full summer lineup, visit: metro.us/things-to-do/philadelphia.

Friday night events are free with museum admission. B. KRIST FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA

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Our favorite hoagies for the 25th annual Wawa Hoagie Day

Just reading this will make you hungry.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

When your schedule is jam-packed and there's not much time to think about lunch, it's a beautiful thing to know you can always go to Wawa. Philadelphians have a lot of love for this East Coast chain with its plethora of on-the-go offerings that include delicious hoagies.

Because today, June 29, marks the 25th anniversary of Wawa Hoagie Day, a few Metro Philly staffers went on a lunchtime expedition to Wawa's Broad and Walnut location and dished on their favorite hoagies. From meat-free to dairy-free to adding a little horseradish for an extra kick, you just might decide to change up your usual order from our recommendations.

Jennifer Fisher

Title: *Account executive, classifieds*
Favorite hoagie: "Tuna on wheat with lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles and cucumbers. I have limited options because [I don't eat meat] but I'd choose this regardless."

David Williams

Title: *Account executive*
Favorite hoagie: "Chicken salad with lettuce, tomato, swiss, sweet or hot peppers depending on my mood. I love chicken salad, but as the feathered inferior to tuna, it cannot be trusted at other eateries, where I think it sits around for days. But not at Wawa. They're shoveling it out by the minute!"

Aaron Jollay

Title: *Copy editor*
Favorite hoagie: "The roast beef shorti with Swiss cheese, horseradish, lettuce, tomato, onions and spinach. The rich flavor and the horseradish really wake you up."

Jennifer Logue

Title: *Philly features editor*
Favorite hoagie: "My go-to is a turkey hoagie with spinach, tomato, onion and spicy mustard — usually on a whole-wheat roll, but sometimes I'll change it up with a classic roll. I try to avoid dairy on days that I sing, so the robust flavor of the spinach paired with the zestiness of the mustard makes me forget about missing cheese!"

Jennifer Lydon

Title: *Account manager, healthcare*
Favorite hoagie: "Tuna on toasted wheat with lettuce, tomato and onion. The tomato and onion liven it up, and the crisp lettuce gives it a nice crunch."

Susan Peiffer

Title: *Associate publisher*
Favorite hoagie: "I get a cheese shorti hoagie with pepper jack and provolone on a whole wheat roll with lettuce, tomatoes, roasted and hot peppers, oil and vinegar. Sometimes I'll add honey mustard too. Since I'm a vegetarian, this is my only Wawa hoagie option."

Evan Macy

Title: *Sports editor*
Favorite hoagie: "Buffalo chicken steak without cheese, with grilled onions, lettuce, salt and pepper. I like the combination of the spicy buffalo sauce — I happen to really like Wawa's — with the buttery caramelized onions, a little spice diffusion and crunch from the lettuce and salt and pepper to intensify the chicken flavor. It's messy, so hard to eat while driving, but I do it anyway (my clothes pay the price sometimes) en route to work quite often."

We chat with Mandy Gonzalez of 'Hamilton' ahead of her Philly Pops performances

The Broadway star has a lot of love for Boyz II Men.

A.D. AMOROSI
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Actor-vocalist Mandy Gonzalez has so much going for her at all times, it's hard to believe she has time for an interview. "Right now, I'm at the Richard Rodgers Theatre before the matinee, and it's so empty and quiet, it's actually a little bit lonely," she says.

Gonzalez currently stars in the smash Broadway hit "Hamilton" as Angelica Schuyler in addition to a recurring role on "Madame Secretary" on CBS. Soon, Gonzalez will start rehearsals for her upcoming gigs on July 3 and 4 with the Philly Pops for two Wawa Welcome America events: POPS on Independence and POPS on the Parkway.

Be sure to catch Mandy Gonzalez perform twice with the Philly Pops during Wawa Welcome America 2017. PROVIDED

"I can't wait," she says with a laugh. "It will keep me busy.

Something that Gonzalez is famous for is being a replacement, a challenging position to be in, but one she's faced with guts and innovation. She's so good at it that she won a Broadway.com Award for Best Replacement for tackling the heralded Elphaba role in "Wicked" (originally performed by Idina Menzel), before doing her current role as Angelica in "Hamilton, "succeeding Tony-winner Renée Elise Goldsberry.

"The thing that's so wonderful about doing "Hamilton" now, is that nine years ago I was here with Lin-Manuel ("Hamilton"'s author and original lead actor/rapper) originating the role of Nina Rosario in his 'In the Heights,' so it feels like home — working with family," Gonzalez says.

Mandy Gonzalez currently stars in "Hamilton." PROVIDED

The authors and creative directors reworked the role to fit her, as much as her "natural humanity" worked with their original conception of Angelica. "As long as you bring your truth and your story, it will work wonderfully. Bring yourself as a 're-placement' and no one can ever duplicate that. Same thing with 'Wicked.'"

Gonzalez goes on to say that she performed in the earliest reading of "Wicked" and came up with Elphaba.

"I knew who Elphaba was because she felt like I did then: an outsider, somebody different. With Angelica, I get her too because of her sense of duty and commitment to country, that sense of protection she has for her family."

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BRYAN BUTTLER

"Zanna, Don't"

The well-received off-Broadway production, which takes place in a world — a high school, specifically — where heterosexuality is taboo, premieres its Tim Acito-directed reboot in Norristown. New to the production: an altered score and revised dialogue that's practically all-new.
June 30, 7:30 p.m., Theatre Horizon
401 DeKalb St., Norristown
Pay what you decide,theatrehorizon.com

THEATER

"The Buddy Holly Story" at Kimmel

The critically acclaimed Bucks County Playhouse take on "The Buddy Holly Story," a musical depicting the life of '50s rocker Buddy Holly, travels to the Kimmel Center for a super-limited run at the Perelman Theater. Hear 20 of Holly's biggest hits.
Through July 9
The Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center
300 S. Broad St.
$50
kimmelcenter.org

MUSIC

Suburban Sensei

Get groovy with this five-piece Jersey rock band, who you'll typically find energizing crowds in the Pines. No tickets necessary: Just show up with a mind open to funk music and prepped for a good time.
June 30, 7 p.m.
Piazza at Schmidt's Commons
1001 N. Second St.
Free
theschmidtscommons.com

Independence Day Jazz, Blues & Fireworks

Eddie Morgan headlines this jazz and blues festival that leads into a grand fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. Perfect for more low-key, beachside Fourth of July fireworks viewing.
Stone Harbor Recreation
95th Street Beach Pavilion, Stone Harbor

ART

Final Fridays Down the Shore

The Philadelphia Museum of Art transforms into your favorite Shore destination with popsicles from Lil' Pop Shop, music from garage-pop group Louie Louie, an artist-designed miniature golf course and even more experimental beach-themed artist projects.
June 30, 5 p.m.
2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Free with admission
philamuseum.org

FOOD

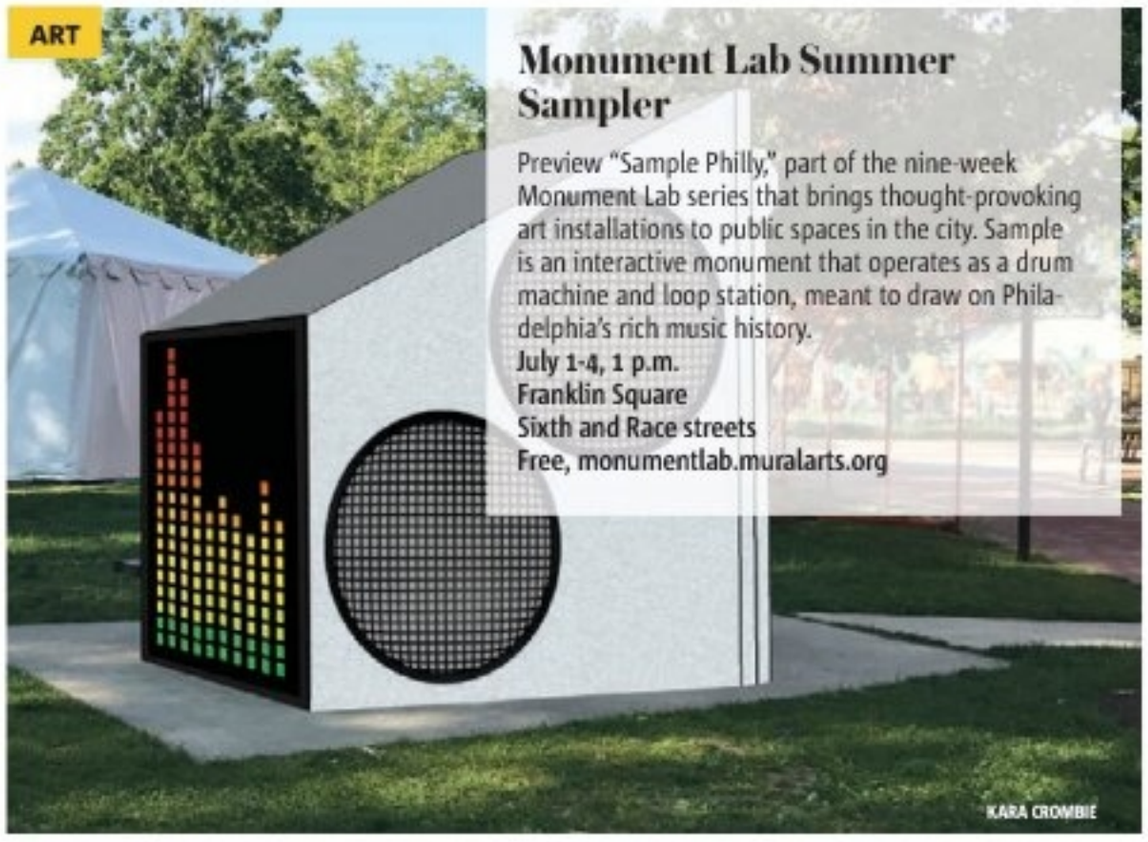
Wawa Hoagie Day

Wawa celebrates a quarter-century of Hoagie Days by saluting Independence Day crowds with a 6-ton hoagie — cut into free individual pieces afterward, as always. Stick around for a performance by the USO Show Troupe and a hoagie-building contest between police firefighters.
June 29, 12 p.m.
Independence Mall
525 Arch St.
Pay as you go
welcomeamerica.com

ART

Monument Lab Summer Sampler

Preview "Sample Philly," part of the nine-week Monument Lab series that brings thought-provoking art installations to public spaces in the city. Sample is an interactive monument that operates as a drum machine and loop station, meant to draw on Philadelphia's rich music history.
July 1-4, 1 p.m.
Franklin Square
Sixth and Race streets
Free, monumentlab.muralarts.org


KARA CROMBIE

FOOD

Hawthorne's IPA Block Party

With a staggering selection of 60 beers, Hawthorne's brings its IPA block party to South 11th Street for its eighth year, boasting a Lemondrop IPA from Founders, a Sour Patch Kids-esque sour from Pizza Boy Brewing Co. in Harrisburg and a tropical IPA from Half Acre Brewing Co. Plus, restaurant lunch items like the three-bean burger, a sweet Italian sausage and beef cheek chili.
July 1, 12 p.m.
Hawthorne's, 738 S. 11th St.
Pay as you go, hawthornecafe.com

PROVIDED

Week de la Independencia

Recognizing that Venezuela and the United States have back-to-back Independence Day celebrations, Puyero is changing its menu to include burgers and hot dogs for a limited time. Go for the Patacon Burger: beef with ham, white cheese, yellow cheese, cabbage, mustard, ketchup and green mayo on a fried plantain bun.
June 30-July 9
Puyero Venezuelan Flavor
524 S. Fourth St.
Pay as you go
puyeroflavor.com

New England Clam Bake at The Olde Bar

Clams, mussels, shrimp and Jersey corn define this annual clam bake at Old City's The Olde Bar. The reservation price will nab you the full meal, but plan to spend more on drinks — though, a specials menu will be available.
July 2, 12 p.m.
The Olde Bar
125 Walnut St.
$45, theoldebar.com

MUSEUMS

"Urban Riders" Exhibit Opening

The Barnes debuts its latest exhibition, "Urban Riders," an 85-piece collection of drawings, photos, costumes and sculptures from Mohamed Bourouissa — an artist who spent time in a North Philadelphia neighborhood capturing "Horse Day" at a stable. Many of these works debut in the U.S. for the first time.
June 30, 6 p.m.
The Barnes Foundation
$25
barnesfoundation.org
BRANDON BAKER

MUSIC

Ed Palermo Big Band

New Jersey saxophonist Ed Palermo and his band bring their imaginative improv to World Cafe Live, where the room will swell with the sounds of a moody jazz that extends beyond the band's original material.
June 30, 7 p.m.
World Cafe Live
3025 Walnut St.
$20, worldcafelive.com

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Through Aug. 20
Philadelphia Zoo
3400 W. Girard Ave.
$10-$12
philadelphiazoo.org/winter

FOOD

Sweat + Sip

Sweat Fitness partners with City Tap House for a satisfying combination of yoga and brunch. Attendees gather for an hour of sun salutes and meditation on the rooftop patio before indulging in chicken and waffles when the restaurant opens at 11 a.m. Or a fruit bowl with avocado, if that's more your speed.

July 2, 10 a.m.
City Tap House
3925 Walnut St.
Pay as you go, ucity.citytap.com

PROVIDED

LGBT

Out in Point Breeze

The Breeze's latest bar and restaurant, Chick's, hosts the second "Out in Point Breeze," a LGBT-friendly, neighborhood-centric happy hour that, in its upcoming edition, touts complimentary hummus and pita, pizza and eggplant Parmesan bites. Advice: Get there early for optimal neighbor-mingling.

June 29, 5:30 p.m.
Chick's, 1807 Washington Ave.
Pay as you go

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STEVE MCANN

The essential Los Angeles

No trip to the City of Angels would be complete without these must-do sites and activities.

Fodor's Travel

Peruse the biggest names of old and new Hollywood along the Walk of Fame. GETTY IMAGES

TCL Chinese Theatre and Hollywood Walk of Fame
Grauman's Chinese Theatre opened in 1927, and stars have been imprinting their hands or feet into the cement after an "accidental" footprint by Norma Talmadge. More than 160 stars have contributed, and among the more unique prints are the nose of Jimmy Durante and hooves of Trigger. Then, of course, there's the Walk of Fame that runs a mile along Hollywood Boulevard, with the names of more than 1,600 stars.

Getty Center
The Richard Meier-designed complex has a skin of travertine marble, and natural light floods galleries filled with impressionist canvases, Greek antiquities, and jaw-dropping exhibits of furniture and decorative arts from French monarchy. Pedestrian plazas and gardens abound, and a sunset dinner at the restaurant, with its panoramic views, is the stuff of memories.

Rodeo Drive
Dominated by the exclusive names of Gucci, Versace and Cartier, Rodeo Drive is a shoppers' paradise. Fortunately, Rodeo Drive doesn't cater exclusively to the rich and famous, and more moderate shops and restaurants are interspersed with the iconic boutiques.

Santa Monica Pier
Spend a sunny day beside the Pacific Ocean riding the Ferris wheel and playing dozens of games for prizes at this popular family destination. Cotton candy and other hard-to-resist treats are within easy reach. Drop by in the late afternoon to experience the dazzling sunsets.

Venice Beach Boardwalk
The bohemian lifestyle of this famous boardwalk is constantly threatened by the rapid gentrification of Venice. Still, the magicians, fortune-tellers and Muscle Beach weight lifters survive. Struggling artists sell their paintings, infiltrated by tackier purveyors of cheap watches and sunglasses. Rent a bicycle or in-line skates, grab a hot dog, and enjoy the sights and the sunset.

In-N-Out Burger
Angelenos have a serious passion for their local burger chain, In-N-Out. No need to get out of their beloved cars to make this magical moment happen — just drive up to the In-N-Out window, order from the secret menu (available online), and enjoy your "Animal Style" in the car.

Farmers Market
At Third and Fairfax, the Farmers Market is pretty much Los Angeles' version of a community center. Everyone comes here to eat, drink and, most importantly, people-watch. Founded by a collective of farmers in 1934, the Farmers Market now houses more than 85 shops and restaurants — you can find everything from a Brazilian grill to a French creperie to a Lebanese kebab stand — in an open-air bazaar ringed by stalls and stands. The Farmers Market and the adjacent shopping area, The Grove, are also low-key places to spot celebrities going about their everyday business.

Taco trucks
It seems that everyone in Los Angeles has a taco truck that they swear by. Typically, these taco stands on wheels have a regular corner and semi-regular hours. The only reliable way to find a good one is to ask a local — or do some research on a foodie website.

Hollywood Bowl
No doubt you've seen the iconic dome in movies, but nothing compares to spending a summer evening in a bleacher seat (or, better yet, one of the coveted boxes) at the Hollywood Bowl. To really get your local on, pack a picnic complete with bottle of wine and wicker basket, and don't be afraid to share goodies with your neighbors.

Griffith Park
The park, extremely accessible from the city, offers a 53-mile network of trails, roads and bridle paths. One of the most popular routes is up Mount Hollywood, which boasts panoramic views of the Los Angeles basin, the Griffith Observatory and the Hollywood Sign along the way.

The Broad
The talk of the Los Angeles art world when it opened in fall 2015, this museum in an intriguing, honeycomb-looking building was created by philanthropists Eli and Edythe Broad (rhymes with "road") to showcase their stunning private collection of contemporary art amassed over five decades and still growing.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Without a doubt, this is the focal point of the museum district that runs along Wilshire Boulevard. Inside you'll find one of the country's most comprehensive art collections with more than 120,000 objects dating from ancient times to the present. The museum, which opened in 1965, now includes numerous buildings that cover more than 20 acres.

Sunset Boulevard
One of the most fabled avenues in the world, Sunset Boulevard began humbly enough in the 18th century as a route from El Pueblo de Los Angeles to the Pacific Ocean. Today, as it passes through West Hollywood, it becomes the sexy and seductive Sunset Strip, where rock 'n' roll had its heyday and cocktail bars charge a premium for the views.

Runyon Canyon
Revel in terrific views of the city and Hollywood Sign from Runyon Canyon. Located just off Hollywood Boulevard, the trails here are popular and easily accessible, which means it can get crowded at times. That being said, you should be fine if you visit in the early morning.

Paramount Pictures
This is the only major studio from film's golden age left in Hollywood — all the others are in Burbank, Universal City or Culver City. For decades, it was director Cecil B. DeMille's base of operations. Paramount offers probably the most authentic studio tour, giving you a real sense of the film industry's history.

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Costa: 7-Day Europe $429* pp; Ocean View Fr $605* pp; Balcony Fr $745* pp
Royal Caribbean International: 7-Day Europe $489* pp; Ocean View Fr $579* pp Taxes & fees $77.35pp; Balcony Fr $849* pp
MSC Cruises: 9-Day Europe $579* pp; Ocean View Fr $769* pp; Balcony Fr $969* pp
NCL NORWEGIAN: 10-Day Europe $649* pp; Ocean View Fr $899* pp; Balcony Fr $1299* pp
EXOTIC CRUISES
Carnival: 7-Day U.S/Canada $459* pp; Ocean View Fr $609* pp; Balcony Fr $889* pp
Celebrity Cruises: 7-Day Bermuda $549* pp; Ocean View Fr $659* pp Taxes & fees $190.80pp; Balcony Fr $799* pp
Princess Cruises: 10-Day Mexico $649* pp; Ocean View Fr $699* pp; Balcony Fr $949* pp
Holland America Line: 11-Day Panama $929* pp; Ocean View Fr $1079* pp; Balcony Fr $1369* pp
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6 Former Eagles who were cut too soon

Sometimes the Eagles front office gets it right, sometimes they get it wrong.

LUKE MILLER
@LukeFM7
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Each year, tens of players leave Philadelphia before the preseason closes, for a variety of reasons. Some will be back on the practice squad. Others will find their NFL fortune elsewhere. Still others will be out of the league.

Inevitably, some good players slip through the cracks. It isn't always catastrophic personnel evaluation that sees an NFL starter left off the 53-man roster. Sometimes a player exits because the dollar signs don't match up. Sometimes they just didn't perform in Philadelphia at the level they will elsewhere, and indeed, more than one of the players we're about to run through were cut by teams besides the Eagles before making their mark on the league. And sometimes the Eagles can just hold a limited number of players at a roster spot they're already supremely stocked in. We'll see one very clear example of that event:

1 Evan Mathis, G, Retired, Released in 2015

The first two names on this list are going to hurt. Mathis was a fan favorite who was released after a contract dispute went bad. A late bloomer, he made the Pro Bowl in 2013 and 2014 with the Eagles, and became a 33-year-old lineman who wanted a raise to match the quality of his play. Then head coach Chip Kelly publicly declared the team had shopped Mathis and found no takers, and when Mathis skipped voluntary OTA workouts as a holdout, the Eagles released him despite Mathis' insistence he was set to attend the mandatory camps soon to begin.

Mathis didn't get his raise, signing a one-year deal for less money with the Broncos, but he did get a Super Bowl ring as a starter in front of Peyton Manning. Meanwhile, the Eagles were never prepared to replace the player Pro Football Focus called the best guard in the league from 2011-2013.

Mathis signed another one-year deal with the Cardinals before 2016, but hurt his ankle and was placed on IR after Week 5. He retired this spring.

2 DeSean Jackson, WR, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Released in 2014

Jackson was drafted in the second round by the Eagles in 2008, and wasted no time becoming their most electrifying weapon. He made Pro Bowls in 2009, 2010 and 2013, his best season and Kelly's first in Philadelphia. Jackson finished with career highs in receptions (82), yards (1,332) and touchdowns (nine). He was then summarily dismissed in a "football decision."

Immediately signing in the division with Washington, he has remained football's most dangerous deep threat with 22 catches of 40-plus yards over the last three seasons. He topped 1,000 yards twice and particularly revelled in playing the team that turned its back on him. He is 4-1 against the Eagles since his departure, missing one contest with injury.

DeSean Jackson will have less opportunities to terrorize the Eagles now with the Buccaneers. GETTY IMAGES

3 Alejandro Villanueva, T, Pittsburgh Steelers, Released in 2014

Villanueva was a memorable presence in Eagles camp: a 6-foot-9 tackle fresh from three tours of duty in Afghanistan who spent his senior year at Army converted from offensive tackle to wide receiver. It was as a defensive end the Eagles envisioned Villanueva. Steelers coach Mike Tomlin took note of him among the opposition in a preseason game however, and when the Eagles released Villanueva, their in-state competition pounced.

He spent 2014 on the practice squad changing positions again, but started 10 games at tackle in 2015. He began 2016 as the starting left tackle, and played every game there. While 2015 ended on, and the 2016 season began to, poor reviews, Villanueva ended the year on a hot streak as part of the line responsible for the Steelers' success. From Week 11 on through the playoffs, Pro Football Focus graded him football's best left tackle.

Given his history as a positional vagabond, it's not hard to realize why Villanueva took awhile to develop. The Eagles were even in a perfect position to allow that development with the corner spots presently manned by Jason Peters and Lane Johnson.

4 Patrick Chung, S, New England Patriots, Released in 2014

Chung came to the Eagles before the 2013 season as a free agent after spending the first four seasons of his career in New England. The move reunited him with Kelly, who was offensive coordinator at Oregon while Chung was playing defense there. While the team made the playoffs, Chung did not garner good reviews. He had no sacks, interceptions or forced fumbles, and started just 10 games.

The next spring he was cut, and is often a bad sign, re-signed immediately by the Patriots. Like Mathis, his exile from Philadelphia saw him immediately win the next Super Bowl. Since his return to New England he has been a constant starter in the secondary that has won two of the last three Super Bowls.

5 Brad Wing, P, New York Giants, Released in 2013

The Eagles signed Wing as an undrafted free agent from LSU following the 2013 draft. To make the Eagles, Wing would have had to beat out Donnie Jones. It seems an impossible task now, but this was Jones' first season in Philadelphia.

Regardless, this is one parting of ways that has worked for both team and player. Jones has been phenomenal as an Eagle, averaging 44.9, 43.8, 47.0, and 45.8 yards per punt in his four seasons, respectively. Wing spent an up-and-down season punting for Pittsburgh before joining the New York Giants, where he looks set for a long term home. He was the NFC Special Teams Player of the Week in Weeks 14 and 15 last season.

6 A.Q. Shipley, C, Arizona Cardinals, Released in 2011

Before Stefen Wisniewski, the Eagles actually had another Penn State All-Star on their roster at center. Shipley was drafted by the Steelers in the seventh round out of Penn State in 2009. He spent his first season on their practice squad, and his second season on the Eagles. Prior to the start of his third season, he was one of Philadelphia's final cuts. He spent the next three seasons bouncing between the Colts and the Ravens, and started 19, playing in 45.

Before the 2015 season, he was signed to the Cardinals by Bruce Arians, who had been his offensive coordinator in Indianapolis. In 2016 he started all 16 games, and he just signed a two-year extension in Arizona this offseason. Not a player whose exit saw him set the world on fire, but one for whom the Eagles definitely were not the last stop.

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HINKIE A PERFECT FIT FOR DREADFUL KNICKS

OPINION

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy

Sam Hinkie is among the best available former GM's in the NBA marketplace. GETTY IMAGES

Imagine my delight when, on Wednesday morning, I woke up and discovered two things on Google. The first, that the Knicks were finally turning the page from the dreary Phil Jackson era — and the second, that Sam Hinkie's noncompete clause expires this summer.

The architect of the much ballyhooed "Process" in Philadelphia made an epic farewell in true nerd fashion, as Hinkie drafted a 13-page letter that leaked to fans outlining what his vision was for an NBA franchise and how the Sixers would eventually claw their way out of the mud — sputtered about from a four-year tank job the likes of which has never been seen before in pro sports.

He has since spent his time in Northern California, partaking mostly in intellectual exercises as he contemplates his next move.

His next move should be to Manhattan.

The Knicks offer, more or less, the same kind of blank slate the Sixers did back in 2013, with a few pieces that can be shipped away for assets here and there but mostly a sea of mediocrity and a long wait before the mighty Warriors are dissassembled.

New York can't compete next year. They won't compete in 2018, 2019 or 2020. No amount of maneuvering, jockeying for superstars or faith in Kristaps Porzingis and 2017 eighth overall pick Frank Ntilikina will achieve an NBA championship for the long tortured fans of the Knicks, so why not blow it up?

But, blow it up right. Blow it up Hinkie style. Knicks fans have long suffered. They can handle a little more pain.

Hinkie traded away the 2014 Rookie of the Year after a historic campaign in Philly. He got two first round draft picks from the Kings for Arturas Gudaitis and Luka Mitrovic. He drafted Joel Embiid, Dario Saric and literally laid the groundwork for the drafting of Ben Simmons and Markelle Fultz. He opened cap space and has the Sixers in one of the most enviable positions of all the NBA — save for the rare four or five teams poised to unsuccessfully make a run at Golden State next season.

James Dolan, the Knicks owner who appears to be the subject of more hatred every single day, would likely never go for Hinkie's tanktastic strategy. He has too much money to be made by putting butts into seats at Madison Square Garden and getting eyeballs on the Knicks on TV. Adam Silver no doubt dreads the return of Hinkie to shred the NBA to bits once again, prompting discussions of overhauling the lottery or replacing it with alternative draft order rules.

Adrian Wojnarowski said Wednesday that Toronto's Masai Ujiri is a favorite to replace Phil Jackson as New York's president of basketball operations.

The evidence suggests a conventional approach for the Knicks is to come, and a radical Hinkie-like change is just a pipe dream. Perhaps the jury is still out on whether the Sixers' historic strategy of rebuilding will yield success — Simmons and Fultz have yet to play a single game. But if Dolan wants to win and wants to really give Knicks fans something to be excited about, it's tank or bust.

The Sixers will need Markelle Fultz to be a two-way player. GETTY IMAGES

Fultz, defense could fuel Sixers' success

The Sixers may have finished with the fourth worst record in the NBA last season, finishing a lackluster 28-54, but it wasn't because of their defense.

The squad ranked 17th in total defense, not 27th as their record would suggest. They tallied the third most steals per game of any team with 8.4 per game, and blocked shots at a rate of 5.1 per game, seventh best in basketball. Adding 6-foot-10 Ben Simmons to the fold next season and hopefully getting more than 31 games from defensively gifted Joel Embiid will certainly help the team build on its defensive abilities, as will rookie Markelle Fultz, who at 6-foot-5 could get his arms in some passing lanes.

"Anybody that knows me, anybody that really watches the game, knows that I play defense," Fultz told Philly media members after officially joining the team last week. "At points in the game, I do get blown by and maybe get back-doored, but my effort is always there. I block shots, I play defense. People that really study the game know that I play defense, so it doesn't really bother me when people say that."

Entering a scheme led by Brett Brown, a coach who emphasizes effort, hustle and defense above all else, could help transform Fultz into an above average, if not elite, defender.

"I believe that when we get him with our program, and he understands how we see the world here, that it's going to be an evolution, no doubt," Brown said. "It's a willing defensive player and it's a willing athlete, a gifted athlete under a roof of a quality person. Those qualities let you have a far better chance to mold him into the defensive player we need here."

A healthy Embiid playing more than 25 minutes per game will help in the rebound department, as he nabbed 7.8 boards per game (as well as 2.5 blocks per game), as would a rotation that includes Dario Saric and Richaun Holmes — two long and defensively gifted players, as well. EVAN MACY

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14 Eurasian range
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17 Summary
18 Luau staple
19 Real estate
20 Took a sip
22 Omaha's state
24 IBM and GE
26Iowa college town
27Wine and soda
32 So!
33 They're almost grown
34 Fresh
36 Winemaking valley
40 Coup d'--
41 Log home
42 Twofold
43 Bolivia neighbor
44 Teller's stack
45 European capital (var.)
46 Freezing
48 Power
50 Sweater letter
52Narrow inlet
53 Genetic research insect
57 Put stress on
62 Timber wolf
63 Stead
65 Give a command
66 Similar
67 Meryl, in "Out of Africa"
68 Bete --
69 A few thou
70 Fix potatoes
71 Norse neighbor

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32 Author -- Rand
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38 Twinge
39 Toward shelter
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47 Tabby or tiger
49 Through
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54 Toss, as a coin
55 "Mona --"
56 Fiscal period
58 Cornfield robber
59 Actress -- Adams
60 Unhip sort
61 Oak or sycamore
64 Luau music

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easy

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				1	4			
	5		9		3		7	
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8	9	6						3
		4				1		

hard

4						2	5	
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7								4
			6	1				3
9	7				8			5
		4	9	6		7		
	8	3						6

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries People trying to convince you to do something should be monitored closely. Ulterior motives are present. Choose stability and greater security over popularity.

Taurus Network and get involved with people you find inspiring. Talks will lead to an opportunity to use one of your skills in a diverse setting.

Gemini Problems will stem from poor communication. Emotions will be difficult to control and can lead to regret. Concentrate on personal improvements.

Cancer Taking a trip to someplace you've never been will shed light on what you should be doing in the near future. Learn what you can from this experience.

Leo Promises will be broken or something will not be delivered as you expect. Get your facts straight before you agree to personal, domestic or work-related changes.

Virgo It's OK to be different. Don't shy away from an idea that is trendy or has the potential to break new ground. Take control and be detailed and precise to ensure success.

Libra Think before you spend money or make a promise. Keeping your balance is what you do best, and right now it's important that you don't start to waver.

Scorpio Get involved and you will make a difference. Your strong beliefs and intense way of going about your business and getting things done will help you excel.

Sagittarius More creative input about how you earn your living will help you come up with a novel plan. Someone close to you will cause emotional turmoil.

Capricorn Look at all the possibilities. Partnerships will play an important role in your life. Make decisions that will influence your life with someone you love.

Aquarius Make alterations at home that will help you lower your overhead, ease stress and add to your overall comfort. Make wise choices based on thought and consideration.

Pisces Emotional matters will surface and should be addressed in order to move forward. Be open with those you confront to resolve unfinished business. EUGENIA LAST

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O	M	E	N		W	I	T	H		R	A	D	I	I
G	A	L	I	L	E	O		E	A	R	N	E	S	T
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E	V	I	L		A	M	I	E		E	R	I	C	A
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C	H	A	N	G	E	D		O	D	Y	S	S	E	Y
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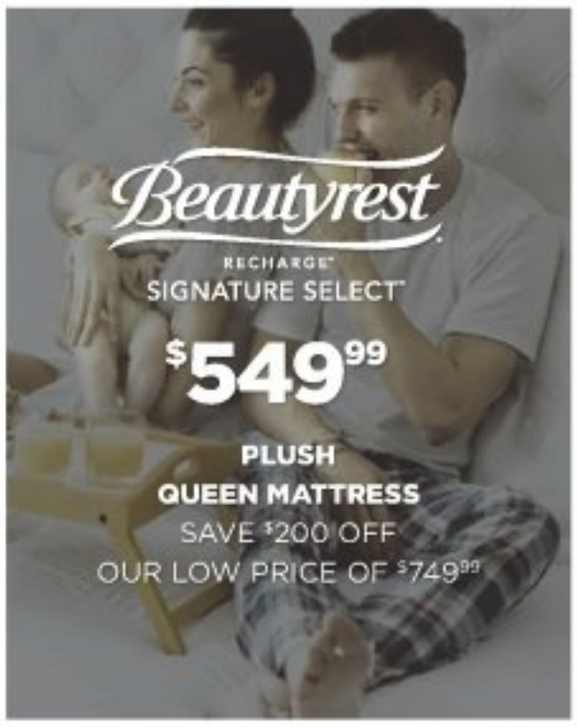

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SAVE UP TO $400††

An innovative hybrid mattress that's the perfect marriage of contouring comfort and superior support.

$56 Per Month†††
72 Months
0% APR*
$3999.99
Total to Pay

Prices reflect queen flat sets with applicable savings. Some models in select stores only.

Exclusively at MATTRESSFIRM

LOVE YOUR MATTRESS GUARANTEE™**

At Mattress Firm we make it easy to Love Your Mattress. We promise that if you don't love your new mattress, you can exchange or return it for your money back within 120 days.

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0% APR: 5 years* with a minimum purchase $1999, 4 years* with a minimum purchase of $1499, 3 years* with a minimum purchase of $1299, 2 years* with a minimum purchase of $999 on your Mattress Firm credit card. 60, 48, 36 or 24 equal monthly payments required. *Offer valid 6/26/17-7/4/17 and applies only to single-receipt qualifying purchases. No interest will be charged on promo purchase and equal monthly payments are required equal to initial promo purchase amount divided equally by the number of months in promo period until promo is paid in full. The equal monthly payment will be rounded to the next highest whole dollar and may be higher than the minimum payment that would be required if the purchase was a non-promotional purchase. Regular account terms apply to non-promotional purchases. For new accounts: Purchase APR is 29.99%; Minimum Interest Charge is $2. Existing cardholders should see their credit card agreement for their applicable terms. Subject to credit approval. ***All monthly payments are rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. Monthly payment is based on purchase price alone excluding tax and delivery charges. Credit purchases subject to credit approval. Other transactions may affect the monthly payment. †Free delivery valid on purchases of $599.99 and more. On available products in local delivery areas. Not available for online purchases. Offer valid 6/26/17-7/4/17. ††Save up to $400 on select mattress sets from Beautyrest Black Hybrid or Beautyrest Black Hybrid Plus. Savings vary by mattress set and model. May not be combined with any other discount, coupon or offer. Not valid on previous purchases. In-store dollar savings range from $300-$400. Offer valid 6/26/17-7/4/17. See store for complete details. †††Receive a free LP50 adjustable base with select purchases. Free adjustable base offer valid on same size mattress purchased. Free adjustable base offer cannot be combined with any other offer or coupon. Offer valid 6/26/17-7/4/17, while supplies last. See store for complete details. **Mattress Firm Free Gift Offer: Offer valid 6/26/17-7/4/17. Purchase select mattress sets at $1999.99 and above and receive a Free Gift up to $300. Free Gift offer good towards in-store credit for free accessories including a luxury pillow (up to a $99.99 value), Premier mattress protector (up to a $19.99 value) or mattress frame (up to an $89 value). Free Gift breakouts are as follows: Spend $1999.99-$2498.99 and choose 1 for free (up to a $100 value), spend $2499-3498.99 and choose 2 for free (up to a $200 value), or spend $3499 or more and get all 3 for free (up to a $300 value). LuxLiving BlackICE pillows, LuxLiving Hyperchill pillows and DreamFit sheets excluded from Free Gift offer. Not valid towards mattress set purchase, previous purchases, special purchases, furniture or with Groupon. Has no cash value, see store for details. ***If you don't love your new mattress, you may exchange or return it within 120 days of your original mattress delivery date. Guest is limited to up to 2 exchanges (excluding product warranty exchanges) within the 120 day time period, calculated from the original mattress delivery date. If exchanged, guest is responsible for redelivery fee of $79.99. See store for complete details. †††In-store dollar savings range from $50-$300. We invite you to ask about any individual prices. Product and selection may vary from store to store. Photography is for illustration purposes only and may not reflect actual product. Mattress Firm, Inc. strives for accuracy in our advertising, but errors in pricing and/or photography may occur. Mattress Firm reserves the right to correct any such errors. Some products are at the manufacturer's minimum selling price and further reductions cannot be taken. Store hours may vary by location. Unless otherwise indicated, offers valid 6/26/17-7/4/17 or while supplies last at your local Mattress Firm. See store for complete details.

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